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Delaunay Family History

Introduction

The following represents a small excerpt from a much larger paper in preparation, "The Delaunay Family." In this excerpt one sees only one of the children of Jean Chevalier Delaunay and Elizabeth Ireland, Catherine Isabel (Elizabeth) Delaunay.

Jean and Eliza were married in Philadelphia about 1810, where Jean's father, Pierre, was in the boat-freight business. They moved to New York for a while then returned to Philadelphia. In the latter part of the second decade of the 1800's, circa 1819, Jean brought his family to New Orleans, where the children were reared.

Jean makes contact with Biloxi about 1819, buys some land and sets up summer cottages for himself and as rentals. During the mid-1830's he moves his family from New Orleans to Biloxi.

Eliza died in 1823. Jean re-married to Adele Ladner, which after some years ends in divorce. He then marries Adele's sister, Elizabeth, who apparently dies a few years after the marriage. Jean died in 1862.

Brother Jerome Lepre  
4401 Elysian Fields Avenue  
New Orleans, LA 70122

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Miss Coast  
Vol 24 #3

Delaunay,  
Giraud,  
Championier,  
Ladner  
Desporte

CATHERINE ELIZABETH DELAUNAY

Born Catherine Isabel, Eliza, as she was known in life, saw the light of day on September 16, 1816 in Philadelphia and was baptized on November 19, 1823 in New Orleans by Pere Antoine, Father Antonio de Sedella, a Spanish Capuchin Franciscan.

After some years in New Orleans, the family moved to Biloxi by 1835. It was here that Eliza spent her late adolescent years with her parents. They lived on Lameuse Street at the beach, where her father had built his home and several rental cottages. After her mother's death in 1823, her father reared his children until he married Adele Ladner, daughter of Joseph and Rosalie Fayard sometime in the later 1820's. The loss of one's mother is a difficult experience for anyone, particularly for a young child. In any event Eliza grew into a fine young lady and eventually married Pierre A. Giraud of St. Fargeol, France.

Pierre arrived in the United States in September 1829. In his application for citizenship on May 14, 1833, he says that he intends to make Louisiana his place of residence. He is twenty-three and he is from France where he owes allegiance to the King. Despite his intention of staying in Louisiana, he meets Eliza, courts her, and makes Biloxi his place of residence.

Pierre was born in the village of La Vallade, Department of Allier. The larger district or commune which includes La Vallade is called St. Fargeol, and is somewhat like a county in the United States. (Registers of St. Fargeol)

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On August 24, 1809, the fifth of the French Empire, before me, the Mayor and public officer of the commune of Saint Fargeol, canton of Marcillat, Department of Allier, appeared Michel Giraud, property owner living at La Valade, same commune of Saint Fargeol, thirty-one years old, who stated that today was born to him and Marie Champomier, his legitimate wife, an infant male, to whom was given the name Pierre. The statement and presentation were made in presence of Pierre Aumaitre, property owner living in the chief place of this commune, and same department, thirty-four years old, and Pierre Champomier, property owner living at La Nareix, commune of Saint Hilaire, Department of Puy-de-Dome, forty years old, uncle of the child who said he could not sign. The said Michel Giraud and Pierre Aumaitre, cousin of the newborn, have signed with me.

At the City Hall on the day and year as above.

Giraud  
Aumaitre

Nuras, Civil Officer

Pierre's parents were from St. Fargeol, but were married at St. Hilaire de Pionsat in the Department of Puy-de-Dome. (City Archives of St. Hilaire de Pionsat, Puy-de-Dome)

On February 20, 1808, was celebrated the marriage between Michel Giraud, born on August 7, 1778, the son of the deceased Antoine Giraud and Gilberte Laurant, property owner living in the village of La Vallade, commune of St. Fargeol, Department of Allier, and Marie Champomier, born February 19, 1787, the legitimate daughter of Bravy Champomier, here present, and the deceased Marie Coullanghon, property owner, living in the village of La Nareix.

Raque Fernand  
The Mayor

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The Giraud family lived in the Department of Allier in the village of La Vallade, commune of St. Fargeol, canton of Marcillat. Michel, father of Pierre was a property owner, land probably filled with vineyards and vegetables, as one finds in that section of France. It is a land of hard work by hardy men and women.

In the author's letter to St. Hilaire de Pionsat, in search of the baptismal records for Pierre's parents, the director received the letter

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at the same time that a descendant of the Giraud's was pursuing some research there. The director gave the letter to the gentleman. An interesting correspondence between the gentleman and the author resulted.

Some of the background information received follows in translation:

The Giraud family, that of my maternal grandmother, born Francoise Eulalie Giraud, was first known in the 15 century when one of their members was secretary to the Bourbon Duke. That branch disappeared during the problems of the Revolution. These were the Giraud of Echevolles. The brother of the secretary to the Duke was known to have purchased a vineyard in the suburbs of Montluzon about 1450. It is from him that our branch of Giraud descends. Established at first in the Petit Marche, Canton of Marcillat, it was also further established at Lavallade, Commune of St. Fargeol, same canton. The first one there was probably Antoine (1767-1803) who married at St. Maigner on 14 July 1769 to Gilverte Laurent who was only fourteen years old. He had a son, Michel at Lavallade, born on August 1778 who died at Lavallade in 1857. (The old house still exists.) He married Marie Champomier on 23 February 1808. It was his son, Pierre, who married Elizabeth Delaunay.

Pierre Antoine was the first to go to New Orleans, the son of Michel. The date is not known. His uncle, Pierre Antoine Champomier, who preceded him, married Madeleine Maugar, had one son, Jean, who probably died single in New Orleans, but no information about him has been uncovered. Pierre Antoine Champomier was the brother of Marie, wife of Michel Giraud.

As regards the Bishop Champomier, it is difficult to discuss this objectively because it is a tradition. It is said in my family that my Aunt Chaffraix, who lived in New Orleans, had a ring that had been the ring of Bishop Champomier. The tradition says that it is he who wrote to his family in France to invite her to come to New Orleans. It is only a tradition and I have heard my grandfather say it.

I was surprised recently while visiting St. Hilaire to hear a person, who lives in the original Champomier house, tell me that it is certain a Bishop came from that house. How could he know? Perhaps from very old people who told him in his youth. So, it is in fact an oral tradition. What is curious is that he knew absolutely nothing about the fact that my family had the same tradition. It is also said that the first Bishop of St. Louis was certainly from here but your letter makes it clear that this is a false tradition. Where he was in the United States is a mystery!



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Surely, Jean Leon Champomier participated in the Battle of Waterloo and was ordained by Bishop Fluget from Billan, Puy de Dome, but he died in Mexico in 1831, where he had gone to obtain funds for the Cathedral of Vincennes in Indiana. He was a brother to Marie Champomier and Pierre Antoine. It does not seem that he was old enough to be a Bishop. I figure that it would have taken place a generation later.

The Champomier family is an interesting one. The first members found in the records of the local government are Amnet Champomier who died in the village of Bellarbe, Commune of St. Maigner, aged 66, on 18 April 1752. He married Marie Delaroché. It was his son, Antoine dit Canada (1720-1797) who married Marie Defarge who purchased the land at St. Hilaire, where we find today the old house, mentioned above. This last had nine children. They were strong Catholics and Royalists. Besides, two of these were arrested by the police of Montaignut en Cambrailles in the second year of the Republic for having fomented troubles at Pionsat. They had with others cried "Long live the King" and "rang the bell" by threatening the members of the municipal Council of Bruleurs de Saints. Among the nine children is found Bravy (1755-1839) who married Marie Coulangheon (1763-1799), the parents of Marie Champomier.

Champomier

Amnet Champomier

+18 April 1752 at 66 at St. Maigner, Puy de Dome, Village de Ballarbe m Marie Delaroché

Antoine (1720-1797) at the village of Danareix at St. Hilaire, Puy de Dome

m Marie Defarge

9 children - one of whom

Bravy (1755-1834)

m Marie Coulangheon

Jean Leon  
+1831  
Missionary  
Priest

Elizabeth  
Nun at  
Rheims

Marie (1784-1854)  
m Gilbert  
Coulangheon

Marie (1786-1830)  
m Michel  
Giraud

Pierre  
Antoine  
(1794-1868)  
m Madeleine  
Mauger

Marie Anne (1789-1857)  
m in 1812  
Jacques Chaffraix

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Giraud

Michel Giraud (1725-1809)

m. Marguerite Verge in 1745

Antoine (1747-1803 at St. Fargeol, village of La Vallade

m. in 1769

Gilberte Laurent at St. Maigner

Michel (1778-1857)

m. at St. Hilaire 29/2/1808

Marie Champomier (1787-1830)

Pierre Antoine (1808-1871)

Michel  
(1812-1865)

Michel  
(1816-1899)

Pierre and Eliza were married in Biloxi on March 29, 1842.

To any minister of the Gospel, Judge of the State of Mississippi, Judge, Justice or Officer of Harrison County, authorized to celebrate marriage, Greeting

You are hereby licensed to celebrate the rites of matrimony between Peter Giraud and Eliza Delaunay and you will return to the Probate Court of said county a certificate of the solemnization thereof.

Witness:

Date:

In virtue hereof, the rites of matrimony between Peter Giraud and Eliza Delaunay were duly celebrated on March 29, 1842.

Signed:

Harrison County, Miss., Book 1 Page  
March 29, 1842

Jean, Eliza's father sold them a piece of property on which they built their home. Eliza had already been deeded some property by her father.

THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI)  
HARRISON COUNTY)  
Deed Book 1, pp. 221-3

Know all men by these present that whereas on the twenty-first day of September in the year one thousand eight hun-

dred and thirty nine, deeds of conveyance were made by John Delaunay and wife Eliza Ladner, and Peter Giraud, of the state and county aforesaid, for two certain lots of ground situated in the village of Biloxi, one of which was conveyed to Peter Giraud, his heirs and assigns for the sum of three thousand dollars, and in said deed of conveyance the boundries for the same were expressed as follows, to wit: beginning at the pass of Biloxi one hundred and sixteen feet from the west line of the property of Rene Lameuse, thence

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westerly along the said pass of Biloxi two hundred and twenty seven feet six inches, thence north twenty arpents, thence east two hundred and twenty seven feet six inches, thence south to the place of beginning, the other lot conveyed to the aforesaid Eliza Ladner, bounded as follows, to wit: beginning at the pass of Biloxi at the corner of the lot of ground conveyed by the aforesaid John Delaunay and Adelle, his wife, to Adolphe Caillavet, thence north along the property of the said Caillavet twenty arpents, thence east one hundred and eleven feet six inches, thence south to the aforesaid pass of Biloxi to the place of beginning. Now be it known that in the making of said deeds of conveyance to the aforesaid Peter Giraud and Eliza Ladner a mistake was made in the aforesaid conveyances as to quantity fronting on the Pass of Biloxi, and the said John Delaunay and Adelle, his former wife, now the wife of Arne Bernard, having purchased the lots aforesaid, to wit: John Delaunay having purchased from Peter Giraud, and Adelle Caillavet having purchased from Eliza Ladner, now it is agreed between the parties whose names are hereto subscribed, to wit: John Delaunay on the one part and Arne Bernard and Adelle, his wife, on the other part an equal division of the aforesaid lots shall be made, the said John Delaunay and the said Adelle, wife of Arne Bernard aforesaid, to share and share alike.

In testimony of which we have hereto set our hands and seals this 16th day of November, A.D. 1843.

In presence of:  
F. Meaut  
George Widler

John Delaunay (Seal)  
Arne Bernard (Seal)  
Adelle + Bernard (Seal)  
Her mark

Two children were born to the marriage between Pierre and Eliza, Marie Emilie and Peter, Jr. Emilie's baptism is given here. The register for baptisms at Biloxi for the years 1846-1857 has been lost. (Baptism Book 1, Cathedral of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Biloxi)

On September 25, 1843, was baptized Marie Emilie, born on September 18, 1842, the daughter of Pierre Giraud and Eliza Delaunay.

Emilie remained unmarried throughout her life. The following testimony to her appeared in the "Daily Herald" of Biloxi on the occasion of her death under the date of November 16, 1915, a fitting tribute to a beautiful life.



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While surrounded by sorrowing loved ones, MISS AMELIA GIRAUD, whose charitableness had brightened many a home where poverty and sickness reigned, passed to her eternal reward at the home of her brother, Ulysses Desporte, at 118 West Beach Avenue this morning at 8 o'clock.

The funeral will be held from the residence of Mr. Desporte tomorrow morning at 10 o'clock under the auspices of the Church of the Nativity, of which she was a devout member. Rev. Father Alphonse Ketels, the pastor of the church, conducting the obsequies. Interment will be in the Biloxi cemetery.

Miss Amelia Giraud was known far and wide in the gulf coast region from Biloxi to New Orleans for her many acts of kindness and charity, her entire life, in fact, having been consecrated to works of good and mercy. She always took supreme delight in helping the poor and going into the homes of the ill, where she ministered to those who were suffering. Her charitable work was as well known in New Orleans as in Biloxi and other gulf coast regions.

Miss Amelia Giraud was born in Biloxi and was 73 years old in September. She came of a family celebrated in the annals of French history.

She was a member of the Church of Nativity of this city, being devoted to the work of Christianity. She was also one of the charter members of the Queen's Daughters and of the Catholic Mothers' Club.

She is survived by a number of brothers and many nephews and nieces. Her brothers are Ulysses and Ernest Desporte, both of this city, and C. A. Desporte, of New Orleans, who arrived last night in Biloxi, in response to a telegram telling him of the serious illness of his sister. Miss Giraud made her home with her brother on the beach for many years.

After his marriage on the Coast, Peter, Jr. went to live in Meridian, where he died in the 1890's.

Pierre, Sr. died shortly after the birth of his son, sometime during 1848 or 1849. Eliza continued to rear her children in Biloxi until she remarried. This new marriage to Victor H. Desporte will be treated in the next chapter. She died on May 29, 1897.